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Agenda item 98

Environment and sustainable development

Report of the Second Committee*

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1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2001, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-sixth session the item entitled:

"Environment and sustainable development:

"(a) Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21;

"(b) International strategy for disaster reduction;

"(c) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa;

"(d) Convention on Biological Diversity;

"(e) Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

"(f) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind;

"(g) Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005"

and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on the item at its 13th, 17th to 21st and 32nd meetings, on 22 and from 29 to 31 October and on 28 November 2001. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/56/SR.13, 17-21 and 32). Attention is also drawn

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in nine parts, under the symbol A/56/561 and Add.1-8.

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to the general debate held by the Committee at its 3rd to 8th meetings, from 1 to 3 October (see A/C.2/56/SR.3-8). An account of the Committee's further consideration of the item will be given in the addenda to the present report, as follows:

Sub-item	*Addendum*
(a)	1
(b)	2
(c)	3
(d)	4
(e)	5
(f)	6
(g)	7
Proposals not related to a specific sub-item	8

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

Item 98
Environment and sustainable development

Report of the Secretary-General on products harmful to health and the environment (A/56/115 and Corr.1-E/2001/92 and Corr.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the preparations for the International Year of Freshwater, 2003 (A/56/189)

Letter dated 9 May 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Bucharest Declaration, adopted at the Summit on Environment and Sustainable Development in the Carpathian and Danube Region, held at Bucharest on 30 April 2001 (A/56/74)

Letter dated 24 July 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué and the Genoa Plan for Africa, adopted at the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Group of Eight, held at Genoa, Italy, from 20 to 22 July 2001 (A/56/222-S/2001/736)

Letter dated 16 August 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/56/304)

Letter dated 19 July 2001 from the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to the Secretary-General (A/56/306)

Letter dated 22 August 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/56/318)

Letter dated 20 September 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/56/393-S/2001/896)

Letter dated 21 November 2001 from the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Declaration adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 at their twenty-fifth annual meeting, held at United Nations Headquarters on 16 November 2001 (A/56/647)

Letter dated 22 October 2001 from the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.2/56/3)

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council on the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests (A/56/3)[1]

Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development on its organizational session[2]

Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-first session[3]

Report of the Secretary-General on the progress in preparatory activities for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (A/56/379)

Letter dated 19 July 2001 from the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to the Secretary-General (A/56/306)

Letter dated 16 November 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/56/634-S/2001/1087)

(b) International strategy for disaster reduction

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (A/56/68 and Corr.1-E/2001/63 and Corr.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon (A/56/76-E/2001/54)

Letter dated 19 July 2001 from the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to the Secretary-General (A/56/306)

Letter dated 2 October 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.2/56/2)

(c) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (A/56/175)

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[1] A/56/3, chap. VII, sect. H.14. For the printed text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/56/3/Rev.1).

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 19* (A/56/19).

[3] Ibid., *Supplement No. 25* (A/56/25).

Letter dated 19 July 2001 from the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to the Secretary-General (A/56/306)

(d) Convention on Biological Diversity

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (A/56/126)

(e) Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Report of the Secretary-General on the further implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (A/56/170)

Letter dated 19 July 2001 from the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to the Secretary-General (A/56/306)

(f) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

Report of the Secretary-General on the institutional linkage of the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to the United Nations (A/56/385)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind (A/56/509)

Letter dated 19 July 2001 from the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to the Secretary-General (A/56/306)

(g) Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005

Report of the Secretary-General on concrete action being taken for the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 (A/56/129)

4. At the 13th and 32nd meetings, on 22 October and 28 November, introductory statements were made by the Executive Secretary of the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, under sub-item (f) (see A/C.2/56/SR.13 and 32).

5. At the 17th meeting, on 29 October, introductory statements were made by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, under the item as a whole and sub-items (a), (e) and (g), and the Director of the New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme, under sub-item (a) (see A/C.2/56/SR.17).

6. At the 20th meeting, on 30 October, introductory statements were made by the Executive Secretary of the secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification, under sub-item 98 (c), the Director of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, under sub-item (b), and the Programme Officer of the Convention on Biological Diversity, under sub-item 98 (d) (see A/C.2/56/SR.20).